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Action
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Control: 6997
Rec'd: August 17, 1954
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FROM: Guatemala City

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 193, August 17, 3 p.m.

FOR HOLLAND

Shortly after my arrival yesterday I called on Junta President Castillo Armas and among other things discussed your plan for going to Mexico in effort to persuade President Ruiz Cortines not (repeat not) to allow Communist asylees remain in Mexico and to turn back persons charged with criminal offenses to Guatemalan authorities. Castillo said his government would cooperate in granting safe conducts in accordance with this plan if accepted by others.

Conversations with Latin American diplomats make it clear any action must be taken immediately if it is to influence situation here. Dr. Carlos Torres, Argentine expert on right of asylum who was sent here from Santiago Chile by his government to handle asylum matters said today that chiefs of diplomatic missions holding asylees met yesterday and decided to give Guatemala until end of present week to grant safe conducts; if this was not (repeat not) done they would make joint protest to Foreign Ministry and as last resort hail Guatemala before COAS, where he said Guatemala would not (repeat not) obtain one favorable vote. He emphasized that his government wished new Guatemalan regime well and had thus far deliberately refrained from pressing matter, despite Foreign Ministry's misleading statements to press and obviously evasive tactics. In this connection he stated that not (repeat not) one single safe conduct had been delivered to date, although Foreign Ministry had announced last week that more than 100 had been issued. (EMBTELs 175 and 187). He also mentioned lack of coordination between various Guatemalan Government groups dealing with asylum problem.

In view of firm stand by Argentines and Mexicans here that asylees cannot be compelled to go to Iron Curtain countries against their wills, it is apparent that radical change of view on their part will be required if dispersal of Communist asylees throughout hemisphere is to be avoided.

PAF:HER/5

PEURIFOY

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